(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने देश में इस संबंध में वाहनों की अधिकतम जीवनावधि निर्धारित करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव तैयार किया है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो प्रत्येक वाहन के मामले में कितनी जीवनावधि निर्धारित करने का विचार है तथा उन वाहनों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) तथा (ख) पुराने मोटर वाहनों के प्रचालन के कारण हुई सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के बारे में कोई आंकड़े एकत्र नहीं किए जाते हैं। सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के संबंध में किए गए विभिन्न अध्ययनों से मालूम होता है कि 2.6 प्रतिशत दुर्घटनायें मोटर वाहनों की यांत्रिक खराबी के कारण होती हैं जो नए अथवा पुराने दोनों हो सकते हैं।

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) जी नहीं।

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Plopesal to run more tourist buses in the Country

4684. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Grovern-mem road transport, plied daily, touching every State in India;

r

(b) whether the Central Government Contemplate to run tourist buses in largs numbers, in order to nave' more cultural and social contacts with other States; and

(c) if not, whether Governmen' would consider the same, having r mind the Nationial integration by day to day contacts of various States'. resi, dents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACi:. TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) in order to boost social and euiLural tourism, the Department ot Tourism Government of India *has* undertiaken the louowing measures to laciiJuate plying of tourist vehicles in India: —

(i) Recognition to the private sector under the Scheme for Tourist Transport Operators, Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on an All India basis to ply tourist venicles itt India.

(ii) In consultation with the Ministry of Finance, the import of air-conditioned cars and coaches has been allowed under a concessional rate of customs duty to specified importers i.e. Tour operators, Tourist Transport operators, Travel Agencies recognised by the Department of Tourism, Govermnent of India and also State Tourism Corporations.

Further, the All India Permit for tourist Transport Operators Rules, 1993 have been framed under the Motor Vehicles Act to rationjalise inter-State movement Ol tourist vehicles in India.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Repair of Highways and Roads in Tamil Nadu

4685. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLA-PPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: .

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has sought financial assistance from the World Bank for the repair of damaged highways and roads in-various districts of the State; .

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistants to anul Tamil Nadu for the said purpose, and

(a) if so, by when the nnancial assistance is likely to be provideu-.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Government or Tamil Nadu has sougnt assistance ot World Bank for upgraajng the State road network to manage the growing trarric intensity besides reconstructing and renaoilitating the distressed bridges and cuuverts. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 880 crores. The exact amount of World Bank funding may be knovim only after the components to be in eluded in the project are identified 0n completion of striategic option study.

(d) It is too early to indicate the time at this stage.

Appointment of agents by SCI

4686. SHRI P. UPENDRA: WiU the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(ft) the number of agents appointed by the Shipping Corporation pf India all over the country and the details thereof;

(b) what are the guidelines the Corporation has fixed for lappoint-ment of these agents, and since when thess agents have been operating at various ports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to lappoint additional agents for any of the ports, in view of the increased exports and imports, and to encourage young entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details tiiereof?

THE MINISTER QF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Shipping Cor. poration; of India has appointed 10 agents at various Indian ports, viz. Gujarat, Karwar, Jawahar Lai Nehru Port,-Pondicherry, Mangalore, Cochin, Kaki-' nada, Nagapattnam, Masulipatnam, AUepey, Quilon, Tuticorin, Calicut, Telli-charry, Rameshwaram, Vizag & Cudda-lore. Besides, SCI has also appointed a,gents at some Inland Container Depots (ICDs.).

(b) SCI contacts some reputable agency houses for the appointment of agents. The factors which are considered for appoint-ment as agimts are sound financial position professional expertise, experience, cargo generating/handling capacity, manpower, availability of physical infrastructure, etc. The existing 10 agnts were appointed by SOI from time to time since 1961.

(c) and (d) The appointment of agents by SCI is a continuous process, depending on the trade-patterns.

Letters written by M.P.s to the Ministry of Surface Transport

4687. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliamnt to the Ministry during the period from Ist April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent: and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?